

MAN'S ORIGIN AND DESTINY

THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE AS PRACTICED HERE AND ELSEWHERE—DESIRE OF MEN FOR VAIN SHOW—No PRODUCTIVE LABOR IN BRUTAL SPORT.

(By Dr. A. Hausman.)

From this near-sighted egoism arises the deplorable fact that so much money is devoted in America to the maintenance of the useless churches and so little for scientific pursuits. But, the young patriot will reply, didn't we invent the telegraph, steamboat, etc.? Yes, but the inventor would hardly consent to the pronoun "we," indicating an intellectual partnership between him and the speaker. And Fulton would never have invented the steamboat if not a certain Englishman, by the name of Watts had discovered the steam power and constructed the steam engine. Morse could never have invented the telegraph without the discoveries of Volta, Faraday, Gauss and Weber. America has adopted the principles discovered by other nations and turned them into money by giving them practical application. America has never enriched the world by any original revolutionizing scientific discoveries, such as were made by Guttenberg, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Watts, Stephens, Pasteur, Darwin, etc. And as the result of this indifference and disregard for science we find all kinds of fraud flourishing and rising to the dignity of science. There are any number of religious sects: The Salvation Army, for instance, prefer the free and easy life of mendicants, to the drudgery of work, although they do some good individually.

There is the christian science, the eclectic and homeopathic school of medicine, which did not stand the test in the old country and was denounced by science and the governments, but found a remunerative field in this country where all kinds of humbugs flourish. It is wonderful how easy people swallow a lie when it is baited with a high sounding name. Let us take Homeopathy, just like the stupid lie of vicarious atonement and love for the enemy, its principle is maintained in theory and despised in practice. It claims to cure like with like, a bare lie, for no remedy produces the disease it is supposed to cure. The second principle goes directly against the laws of nature and common sense, it is the absurd assertion that dilution will increase the strength of medicine. One drop of wine with 99 drops of water forms the first dilution and this repeated three or four times ought to give the liquid a strength against which the strongest whiskey would be a mild drink. This exposure of a crude humbug meets with

vigorous objections by Mr. B., who, among others, concludes with the following remarks: "The idiotic, superstitious use of drugs by regulars is in my mind a more disgusting belief than that in god or a devil. Every man of sense knows that, barring narcotics, science is ignorant of the action of drugs on different systems. And you know, being a medical man, that there is not an all round infallible cure for the belly-ache or the most trivial pain. Now the men who drop drugs learn by practice and experience how to guide erring humanity so as to keep well, may be Eclectics, Homeopaths, Allopaths or even Hydropaths, but they must be scientifically educated—and science knows no school. It is merely knowledge. You should expurgate this narrow-minded idea from your book, otherwise it will lower the whole in the eyes of the masses that you wish to reach and teach."

It is amusing to read this effusion of indignation, which denies and confirms the charges in almost the same breath. There is a saying in Berlin which in free translation reads: "Every one has a spot where he is an ass." While some people are asses all over and their thick skin is impenetrable for any sensible argument, others have undergone a partial process of transformation into rational beings and only here and there is left a remnant of the old Adam, a little prejudice or superstition in regard to some object, which however is a very sensitive place that can not bear the least touch. In this case I have inadvertently hit such a tender spot in Mr. B's mind, a little weakness in regard to medicine and, *hinc illae lacrimae*, the kind advice to leave out the passage. But as my object is not to please the masses who do not want to be taught, but to assert the truth and show things as they really are, I must decline his request and proceed to remove the little homeopathic tumor from his brains. In a letter to Mr. B. I put up several theses in reply to his objections, offering to strike out the offensive passage and become a Homeopath myself if he could refute only one single statement. This offer is still open for Mr. B. or any one else who thinks he can produce any facts in defense of homeopathy.

1. In Germany (England and France), homeopathy is not recognized and subsidized by the state.

2. The principles of homeopathy as laid down by its founder, Hahue-man, are the two named above: As the name indicates (*homoio-pathein*, to heal with like), the idea is, that the natural disease is driven out of the body by an artificial one, produced by the medicine. The second one is the theory that the efficiency of the medicine increases with dilution. Both are untrue and absurd.

3. There is and can be but one science of medicine and